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Smallpox in the United States, etc.—Continued.

Places.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Washington :				
Spokane.....	Feb. 27-Apr. 30.....	5	
Wisconsin :				
Calumet County.....	Feb. 16.....	1	
Harrison County.....	Feb. 20.....	1	
Milwaukee.....	Apr. 24-May 20.....	9	1	
Outagamie County.....	Feb. 7-Mar. 20.....	15	2	
Total for the State.....	26	3	Officially reported.
Wyoming:				
Cheyenne.....	Mar. 5-Mar. 26.....	5	
Rock Springs.....	Dec. 24.....	1	

PORTO RICO.

*Sanitary report for Mayaguez.*SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *May 13, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of an inspection of Mayaguez, Porto Rico:

This port is situated upon the western end of the island and commercially is the third in importance. Like Ponce, the city proper is located a mile or so inland from the Playa, but has been built up in the intervening space. The population of the city is about 18,000 and of the district about 30,000.

The streets are wide and clean, unpaved, with a fair incline for drainage. The buildings are of a substantial character, brick, stone, and cement, as usual in Porto Rico, and are well adapted to this tropical climate.

The city possesses an electric-light plant, gas, and waterworks. The latter supply is fair in quality and quantity, and is taken from a mountain stream a couple of miles away, the pressure being by gravitation. This system requires both reservoirs and filter beds. Vegetable gardening is carried on by irrigation, and although commercially quiet for the past few years, this city has a future as a shipping point for a rich coffee and sugar district, the best cultivated region upon the island.

The harbor is an open one, and freight and passengers are landed by means of lighters. Toward the northern end an iron pier was partially constructed, to fairly deep water, by the Spanish authorities, but the ironwork is rapidly oxidizing for want of paint and tar protection. A breakwater is also needed upon the water side, to protect vessels lying at the wharf.

The customs receipts since our military occupation, August 10, 1898, are in round numbers, \$115,000.

A local military board of health, with Major Cooper as president, and Dr. Nussar, city physician, as secretary, acts in conjunction with the alcalde and city council. The usual scarcity of funds prevails, but the streets are well policed in a sanitary way, and the cesspools are kept within bounds. The slaughter house is located in an objectionable section of the city, and should be removed to the one extremity of the water front, or a crematory provided for burning the refuse, as the blood and washings drain into a neighboring marsh, with the prevail-

ing winds toward the city, breeding flies, odors, and perhaps other deleterious matter.

General vaccination has been practiced in the last six weeks, and while there have been a few cases of smallpox in isolation, no prevalence of the disease is feared.

The following data, compiled for me at the city court, gives the recorded births and deaths for the six years since 1893:

Estimating the population of the city and district at 30,000, the average death rate for the period 1893-1898 (six years) is 42.8 per thousand. (Copy of table inclosed.)

From Captain Travis, military collector of customs, I obtained the following list of the entrance and departure of vessels, all foreign, for the past six years:

In 1893, entered 297, cleared 296; in 1894, entered 287, cleared 305; in 1895, entered 317, cleared 307; in 1896, entered 322, cleared 290; in 1897, entered 348, cleared 351; in 1898, entered 195, cleared 195.

During January, February, and March, 1899, 48 have entered and 43 cleared the port.

Quarantine inspection service.

There is no quarantine station of any kind at this port, an inspection only having been maintained. An attempt was made to destroy the public records, quarantine and otherwise, and what remained in a fragmentary way I gathered up and brought back to the San Juan office for examination and file.

The small yawl boat, 21 feet in length, in use for boarding purposes, is the property of the quarantine service, and is jointly used by the customs authorities. For this reason its repairs in caulking and painting should be attended to by the custom house. The boatmen are also custom house employees. Dr. Tomas Vasquez, who had been appointed port physician had been away for several months, located in an interior district, practicing his profession, with a substitute, Dr. Monagas, acting for him, and his resignation was in the hands of the military collector of customs, who had already nominated Dr. Geronimo Gomez to the War Department for the position.

I took up this nomination and forwarded it to you, with the understanding that he was to live at the Playa, have a desk in the custom house, and devote his whole time to the duties of maritime sanitary inspector.

The majority of foreign vessels arriving at Mayaguez are first inspected at San Juan or Ponce, yet there are tramp steamers which first arrive there for cargoes of coffee and sugar, coming from suspicious localities, and require careful inspection. The history of the place shows that yellow fever has prevailed irregularly in past years, especially in 1893 and 1894, attacking only new arrivals and unacclimated persons. I am not yet prepared to say whether the disease was introduced or occurs endemically. At any rate, these smaller ports of the island are a source of danger, from the arrival of tramp vessels, and I have issued rigid instructions, in Spanish, to all of these port physicians, to use the mail and military telegraph line freely in any doubtful case. I have also informed them that the quarantine regulations are being printed in Spanish by your directions, and copies will be sent to them as soon as printed.